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SUBJECT: TIP/PISCES UPDATE

REF: (A) 03 BANGKOK 4051 (B) 04 BANGKOK 8783

1. (SBU) Summary: Washington-based Terrorist Interdiction Program(TIP)/PISCES Director Keith McCoy and Program Officer Julie Reynolds along with PISCES Thailand Coordinator Tang Penland met with Thai Immigration Bureau and National Security Council (NSC) officials February 20-25 to discuss the future scope of the PISCES border control management system in Thailand. The parties agreed to incorporate additional features into the PISCES system, to discuss incorporating other features, and to modify target delivery dates. Initial installation at Thailand's three major airports is scheduled for May 2005, installation at 14 border points currently using an Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB) system by November 2005, and the remaining 39 ports of entry completed by December 2006. End Summary.

2. (SBU) Immigration Bureau (IB) Commissioner Amarin Niemsul advised the PISCES team members February 24 that the IB had decided to cancel its existing contract with a local Thai company which was to develop a duplicative system similar to PISCES (discussed Ref A). Prior to the cancellation of the local contract, PISCES development and installation was to occur in two phases. Phase I would include the full PISCES system installed at Thailand's three major airports. However, during Phase II (installation at the remaining border points), the Thai system to be developed under the separate contract was to be primary, with PISCES only supplying certain add-on components such as fingerprint scanners and document readers.

3. (SBU) While the scope of the cancelled contract was to provide system applications similar to PISCES, it also called for development of tangentially related back-office functions that were not part of the PISCES package. Commissioner Amarin provided the PISCES team with a prioritized list of 28 system applications that were to have been developed under the local contract and requested that these features now be incorporated into the PISCES scope of work. The PISCES team noted that seven of the 28 applications were core to immigration processing and already incorporated in the PISCES design for Phase I (airports). With the cancellation of the local contract, the PISCES team agreed that those seven software applications plus the necessary hardware would be provided at the remaining ports of entry under Phase II.

4. (SBU) The PISCES team further agreed to consider developing some or all of the additional 21 software applications not directly linked to basic immigration processing that had been slated for development under the cancelled local contract. The PISCES program team agreed to send technical personnel to Bangkok within the next two months for detailed discussion on design aspects of the additional system features. The parties agreed that applications deemed tangential to the principal PISCES function may be developed separately with an interface linking them to the core border management application.

5. (SBU) The parties also discussed and revised future PISCES installation target dates. The parties agreed to extend the target date for Phase I (airports) installation by two months to May 2005. The parties further agreed to divide Phase II - the remaining border points - into two parts, thereby creating Phase II and Phase III. The new Phase II, to be completed by November 2005, includes 14 sites that currently operate a border control system developed by the Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB). The new Phase III includes the remaining 39 border points. Phase III sites are scheduled for completion by December 2006. The additional tangential system functions are anticipated to be completed for Phase II installation, at which time they will also be added to the already installed Phase I airport sites.

6. (SBU) The PISCES team briefed NSC Secretary General Winai Phattiyakul on the above developments. General Winai continues to be actively engaged in monitoring the progress of the PISCES project and has repeatedly provided positive influence in overcoming negotiation stumbling blocks.

